

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment "A", claims 1-44 were pending in the present application. In this Amendment "A", Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 40, 42 and 43, has canceled claims 4-39 and has added new claims 45-55. Reconsideration of the application in its current format is hereby requested.

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,645,404. Applicant believes the amendments made to the claims obviate the need for such a terminal disclaimer.

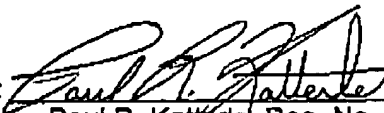
Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 050877.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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